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MAR 11 2008**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****Examiner: M.E. Hoban; Art Unit: 1709; Docket No.: 3863****In RE: Application of M. Cotlear De Witzmann, et al****Ser. No.: 10/593,982****Filing Date: September 25, 2006****ASSOCIATE POWER OF ATTORNEY**

The undersigned hereby grants William G. Valance, Reg. No. 28,275, an associate power of attorney in the above-identified U.S. Patent Application for the purposes of attending an Examiner's interview with the Examiner or Examiners at the U.S. Patent Office regarding the subject matter of the above-identified U.S. Patent Application as well as any related matters, such as viewing the USPTO file for the above-identified US Patent Application.

This is not a full Power of Attorney to the above-named practitioner. Accordingly, the practitioner named above does not have authority to sign a request to change the correspondence address, a request for an express abandonment, a disclaimer, a power of attorney, or other document requiring the signature of the applicant, assignee of the entire interest or an attorney of record.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker,

Attorney for the Applicants

Reg. No. 27,233

571-549-4700